



## MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOARD

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING REPOWERING THE HIGH BRIDGE GENERATING PLANT

**EQB Docket No. 54-91-PPS-Xcel Energy High Bridge**

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**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that Xcel Energy, Inc. has applied to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) for a Site Permit for a Large Electric Power Generating Plant. As part of Xcel Energy's Metro Emissions Reduction Proposal (MERP), Xcel Energy proposes to replace the existing 271-MW coal-fired High Bridge Plant with a 480-665 MW capacity natural gas-fired, combined cycle plant. The construction of the new generating units at the High Bridge Generating Plant site falls within the definition of a Large Electric Power Generating Plant ("LEPGP") in the Minnesota Power Plant Siting Act and, thus, requires a Site Permit from the MEQB prior to construction.

A copy of the Site and Application is available on the EQB webpage.  
<http://www.eqb.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=15966>

On Thursday, March 3, 2005, the EQB will conduct a public information meeting in room 302 of the Centennial Office Building (COB) in the State Capital Complex. The COB is located at 658 Cedar Street in St. Paul, Minnesota. The meeting will be held at 3:00 pm and at 7:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting is to provide information to the public about the proposed project, to answer questions, and to allow the public an opportunity to suggest alternatives and impacts that should be considered during preparation of the environmental review document. Written comments must be submitted no later than March 21, 2005.

During the site permitting process, the EQB is required to prepare a document called an Environmental Assessment, analyzing the potential site specific impacts of the project (Minnesota Rules Chapter 4400). The site permit application will be reviewed pursuant to the Alternative Permitting Review process procedures in Minnesota Rules, part 4400.2000-2950.

Xcel Energy's Metropolitan Emission Reduction Proposal was reviewed and approved by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) in Docket E002/M-02-633. The conversion of the High Bridge Plant is exempted from the Certificate of Need requirements of Minnesota Statutes § 216B.243.

The Chair designated EQB staff members Bill Storm as project manager and Larry Hartman as the public advisor in this matter. Inquiries about this project should be directed to the EQB project manager, Bill Storm ([bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)) or Larry Hartman ([larry.hartman@state.mn.us](mailto:larry.hartman@state.mn.us)) 300 Centennial Bldg., 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155, telephone 651.296.9535, facsimile 651.296.3698 (TTY relay service 800.627.3529).